

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

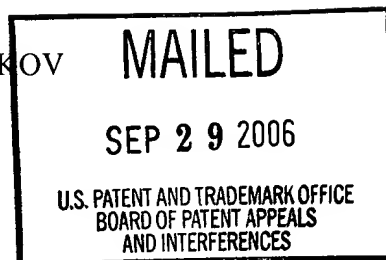
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Ex parte: DAVID L. BAHR, DOUGLAS W. BAHR,  
MEENAL V. EKBOTE and ALEXANDRE OKONECHNIKOV

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Application No. 09/497,383

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ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

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This application was received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on August 29, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

**EXAMINER'S ANSWER**

Headings

On May 16, 2006, an Examiner's Answer was mailed, however, it is not in compliance with the new rules under 37 CFR 41.37(c). It is required that any Examiner's Answer be issued in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(I).

A review of the Examiner's Answer dated April 17, 2005, indicates that the

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following sections are missing:

- 1) "Real party in interest," as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(I).

#### Appeals Conference

A further review of the Examiner's Answer reveals pertaining to the required appeals conference is not in compliance with the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 1208 (8th ed., rev. 1, Feb. 2003).

According to MPEP § 1208:

The participants of the appeal conference should include (1) the examiner charged with preparation of the examiner's answer, (2) a supervisory patent examiner (SPE), and (3) another examiner, known as a conferee, having sufficient experience to be of assistance in the consideration of the merits of the issues on appeal.

On the examiner's answer, below the primary examiner's signature, the word "Conferees:" should be included, followed by the type or printed names of the other two appeal conference participants. These two appeal conference participants must place their initials next to their name. This will make the record clear that an appeal conference has been held.

The Examiner's Answer, mailed May 16, 2006, was not signed or initialed by both of the appeals conference participants. Appropriate correction is required as required under MPEP § 1208.

**CONCLUSION**

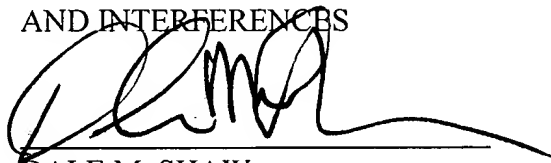
Accordingly, it is

**ORDERED** that the application is returned to the examiner for:

- 1) vacate the Examiner's Answer mailed May 16, 2006,
- 2) to obtain the conferee's initials or signatures on the Examiner's Answer; and
- 3) for such further action as may be appropriate.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DMS', is written over a horizontal line.

DALE M. SHAW

Deputy Chief Appeals Administrator  
(703)308-9797

DMS/dpv

Alston & Bird, LLP  
Bank of America Plaza

Application No. 10/497,383

Alston & Bird, LLP  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 South Tryon Street  
Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000